UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/708
3 August 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC AND ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a cable message addressed to the Security Council from Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail, Minister for Foreign Affairs, concerning the latest Eritrean military aggression against the Sudanese territories.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative

98-22639 (E) 040898 040898

/...

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 30 July 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan addressed to the President of the the Security Council

I refer to my previous letters, of which the most recent was issued as an official document of the Security Council (S/1998/258) on 19 March 1998, concerning continued acts of aggression by Eritrea against the Sudan's borders. I regret to inform you that the Eritrean regime, which has become a destabilizing element in the region, continues to perpetrate acts of aggression against the eastern borders of the Sudan, intimidating the innocent civilians there.

On the morning of Tuesday, 28 July 1998, hostile Eritrean forces shelled a number of Sudanese border villages, namely Hafarat, Awad, Galasa and Abu Alga. This was followed by a ground attack, carried out by Eritrean forces, together with Sudanese rebel elements, who were supported by infantry, a number of tanks and artillery. Two infantry units, using artillery of various calibres as well as mortars and 122-mm rocket launchers, shelled the area for a period of three hours from inside Eritrean territory. This was followed by the ground attack. As a result, a number of civilians were killed and many citizens were forced to leave the area.

The Government of the Sudan continues to exercise the highest possible degree of self-restraint, with a view to safeguarding security and stability in the area. The Government affirms that the Sudanese armed forces, which successfully repelled the attack, are capable of defending its citizens and their property. However, self-restraint and patience have their limits and the Government of the Sudan reserves its full right to defend its territory and its citizens.

In drawing your attention to the details of these attacks by Eritrea, we hope that the Security Council will do its part to ensure that Eritrea brings a halt to its openly hostile policies towards Sudan and its repeated acts of aggression against Sudanese territory, in order to safeguard stability, security and peace in the area.

(Signed) Mustafa Osman Ismail
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Sudan